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Lynn Currie is the first person I baptized into Christ. He was 14 and I was his 19-year-old youth minister. Lynn's faith was vibrant and enthusiastic. I still remember his response after reading *Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand, a book I gave him to read. When he returned it, his reaction shocked me. He said something to the effect, "I wish I could be there. It really costs you something to believe in Christ when facing persecution."

The trials Lynn faced in life can't be characterized as persecution, but they were enough to test his faith. In fact, they destroyed it...for a time. But after lying dormant through a life of physical, emotional, and spiritual struggles, the seeds of faith that were planted in his youth came back to life. He is just now putting the finishing touches on a book he is writing entitled *I Believe in Santa Claus and I Believe in God*.

I'm not going into the Santa Claus bit, but I do want to share with you some of his concluding statements.

"In concluding, I believe there are many reasons to believe in God. I believe that belief in God is plausible and makes as much sense scientifically and philosophically as to not believe. I know, my reasons are debatable and you may disagree. I believe that ultimately, it is a choice and matter of faith, one way or the other.

I ask myself, how can there be a God? My answer is always another question, how can there not be? I believe that an autonomous, intelligent, external (outside and yet inside) of our time something (which I believe is the God of the Bible), is either necessary or at least a possible explanation for the complexities of the material world and existence of the metaphysical realities.

If you haven't believed in God, I hope you consider reasons to do so. If you believe in God, I hope you consider that His interaction and revelation is given to us in the Bible. And, in the Bible you might find that Jesus is the Son of God, who is God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in whom I believe and are therefore saved to live with God forever."

The resurrection of Lynn's faith gives witness to the presence of a Resurrected Lord who remains active in our lives, even during times of struggle and doubt.

The Lord has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!
God Bless, Rick

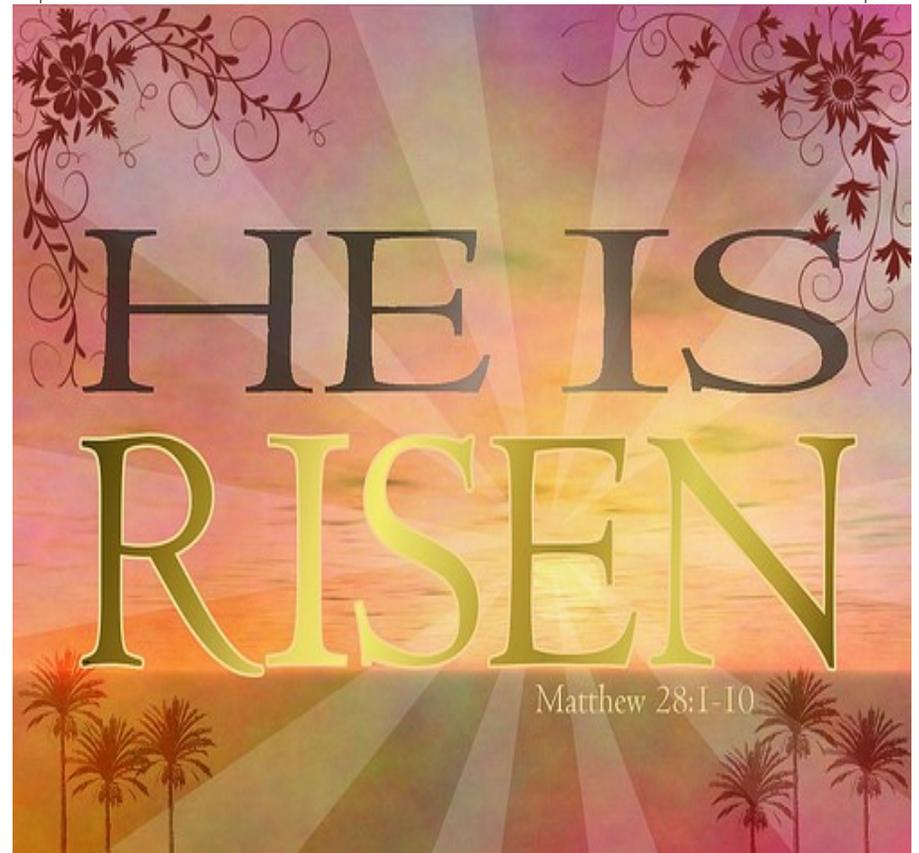


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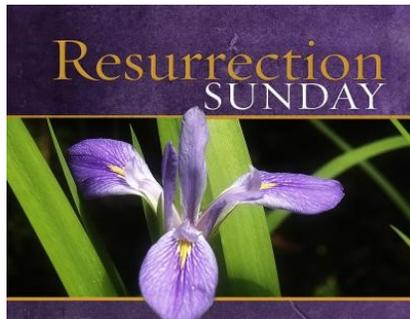
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

STATISTICS		
Worship	3/14	80
Offering		\$3,598.20
Worship	3/21	90
Offering		\$2,642.92
Worship	3/28	79
Offering		\$5,845.72



Everyone is invited to worship together this Easter Sunday morning. There will be no nurseries, children's worship, classes, or youth groups this Sunday.



The rains have come, and the days are getting longer. Paul has serviced the Kubota, and the gas tanks are filled. Which means the only thing left is to put riders in the seat. If you would like to serve the church this spring and summer by mowing the church lawn, please let Casey know. Typically, this is only a twice a season commitment if we get enough volunteers.

THE TORN VEIL

A communion meditation by Rick Polley

The tearing of one's clothes is an ancient tradition among the Jews, and it is associated with mourning, grief, and loss. The first mention in the Bible of someone tearing his garments is in Genesis 37 "When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes." Then a short time later we read, "Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days" when he thought that Joseph had been killed.

Some other biblical examples of men in the Old Testament who tore their clothes to express pain and sorrow include David, when Saul and Jonathan were killed; Elisha, when Elijah was taken up into heaven; Job, when he was stripped of all his possessions; Jephthah, when he learned the result of his rash vow to sacrifice to God the first thing that came out of his house--which unfortunately happened to be his daughter; Mordecai, when he learned of Haman's plot to destroy the Jews; Ahab, when Elijah pronounced a judgment against him; and in the New Testament--Paul and Barnabas, when the people of Lystra began to worship them.

Today I want to address another possible time when one's coverings were torn because of mourning or great loss.

In the minds of the Jews--God lived in the temple. Of course, they knew He was omnipresent, but God had a special dwelling there in the Holy of Holies, separated from the rest of the world by a veil. We normally think that when Jesus died, the temple veil was torn to signify that Jesus's death paid the penalty for our sins, and we now have direct access to God without the need for a high priest.

But isn't it interesting to at least consider that when the veil ripped at the very moment Jesus died, God was tearing His veil covering in the agony of the death of His Son? As a man in mourning would rip his clothes off from top to bottom, the temple veil was also ripped from top to bottom.

Like you, I am going to lean toward the veil being ripped meaning we now have direct access to God. But even so, don't we have an awesome God? It hurt Him to watch His son die on the cross. But that didn't stop God laying out for us that costly plan of salvation; and God followed through with that plan by allowing His only son to suffer a punishment that would cleanse us from our sin--in order to save you and me from hell.



High School Students

I am excited with the number of you that are interested in attending this week long conference in July. Many are waiting to make sure the schedule allows them to go, but if it works out for everyone interested in going it could be one of our largest groups ever to attend. It never disappoints!

There are a few changes to report concerning the trip. The dates (July 12-17) are the same, but the location is changing. I was notified by CIY this week that Wheaton College is cancelling their session in Illinois. So, it is a little longer road trip, but I think we will focus on the conference at Lee University just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee. While it is a longer drive, the cost to attend decreases by \$30 a person coming to \$314 to register. We can take the extra \$30 and apply it to white water rafting during our free afternoon!

I know there continues to be a lot up in the air regarding summer plans. This site does not seem to be in super high demand at the moment, so we should have a couple more weeks to get in our registration. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can attend!



Rescue, Mentor, Community. . .and in everything, Christ

We are all set to venture out to the ranch to help them get ready for their upcoming season of ministry.

- K-5: We will meet at CCC at noon at Saturday, April 10th. After lunch together, we will get to work on our service project. I am anticipating being done by late afternoon.
- Jr./Sr. High: Our work day is on April 17th. We will be meeting at 3:00pm and will conclude with a bonfire and cookout.



Junior High Youth Group

Marty McFly. Doc Brown. The time traveling DeLorean. I'm not sure how many Junior High students will get these references, but I'm sure many of us remember seeing the movie in the theatre when it was released in 1985.

After Easter on Sunday nights, we are going to use this theme throughout April to examine Scripture. The Bible has a time machine feel to it, an ability to teach us about the past, present and future simultaneously. It is the story of God who exists outside of time and designed a plan to save us before time as we understand it began. We will look at the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah for example, who left hints of God's redemptive plan through Jesus hundreds of years before Jesus walked on our planet. Jesus set us free from the bondage of sin and death which accompanies the bondage. In short, we will look at the redemptive story of God and what a beautiful story it is.



After a summer without kids enjoying the camp property, LSCA is ready to host a full season of summer camping this year for all ages. They have just announced that overnight camping will be allowed, but various restrictions will be still be place. Be sure to check the schedule on the bulletin board and their website for details. As always, CCC will pay for half the tuition for one session of camp per attendee. Please see me if you need the code when registering.